

TIDESMARINE

SailTrack Installation Instructions

External Track



www.tidesmarine.com

Before You Begin

Your installation will be easier if you move the boom well off the centerline (or remove it from the gooseneck altogether).

Try not to bend the track from side to side. It will go up more easily if you can keep the track directly in line with the existing track.

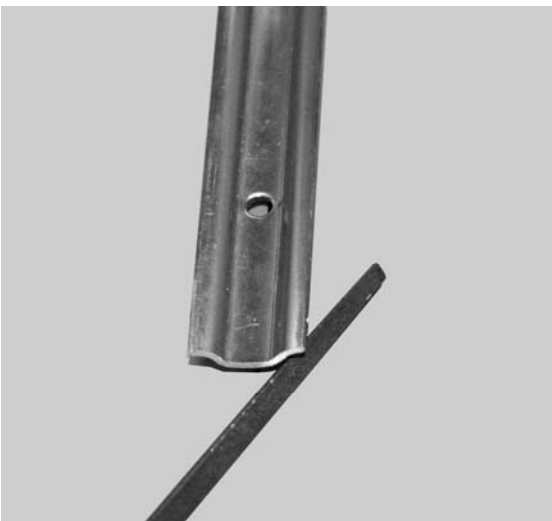


- 1 The bottom of the existing external track should be at least 6" above the gooseneck. This is necessary as the Tides Track has to slide over the existing track at this point.

If it looks as if:

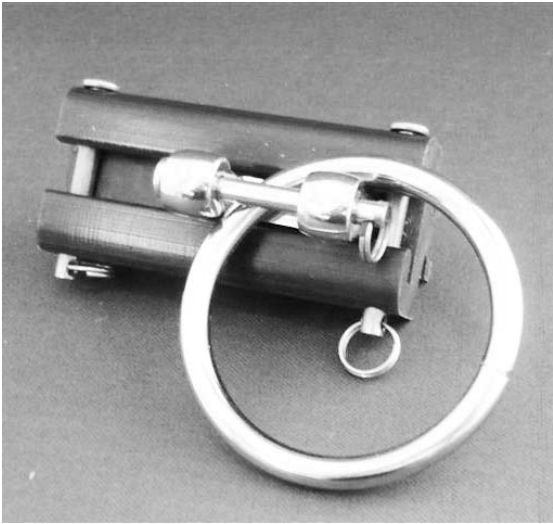
- 1) the external track is too close to the gooseneck, or,
- 2) the shape of the gooseneck or track hardware will interfere with the installation...

...you should remove 3-4 of the lowest screws holding the existing external track to the mast. Carefully pry or pull this piece of external track away from the mast until a "workable angle" is created.



- 2 Inspect the bottom edges of the existing track. Using a small rasp, round the bottom corners and edges, ensuring it is smooth and free of any nicks or burrs.

Test Track



- A Effective May 1, 2009, Tides Marine will supply a test piece of track (3"-6" in length) with each Tides Track System. This Test Track is identical to the actual track being shipped to you. It is cut from the end of your Tides Track before your track is "cut to length" and packaged.

Do not take your "full-length" Tides Track out of the box until you have followed all the Test Track Installation Instructions.

Test Track Installation Instructions



- B Connect a halyard to the ring located in the slide in the test piece of track. Then, connect a retrieval line (equal in length to your "P" measurement + 5') to the same ring.

This retrieval line must be strong enough to pull the Test Track back to the mast gate in the event that the test piece gets stuck on the track while being raised to the masthead.

Insert the Test Track over the existing external track.

Using the halyard, pull the Test Track to the top of existing external track to make certain the full length of the Tides Track will install without difficulty. Once the test track is at the masthead, pull it back to the gooseneck using the retrieval line.

Test Track Fits:

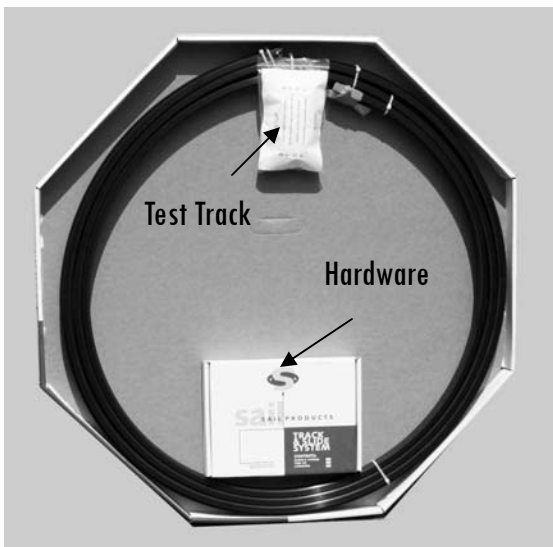
If the Test Track moves smoothly to the mast head and back to the gooseneck, your actual Tides Track should install without incident. Please go to Step 1 and begin the installation. Save your Test Track as it contains an extra SH-600 slide and two clevis pins with clevis rings.

Test Track Does Not Fit:

If the Test Track becomes stuck on the track, your “full-length” Tides Track will not fit your mast. Retrieve the test piece and hold it against the edges of the mast gate to determine which measurement is causing the problem. Measure width of track and compare it to the measurements you originally sent to Tides (included in the Test Piece Bag). Complete a new measurement form to reflect these current measurements and send the measurement sheet to Tides.

Re-seal the large Tides Box and send it (UPS Ground is easiest) back to Tides. There will be a 15% re-stocking charge to cut your new track. This will be added to the invoice for the “replacement” Tides Track.

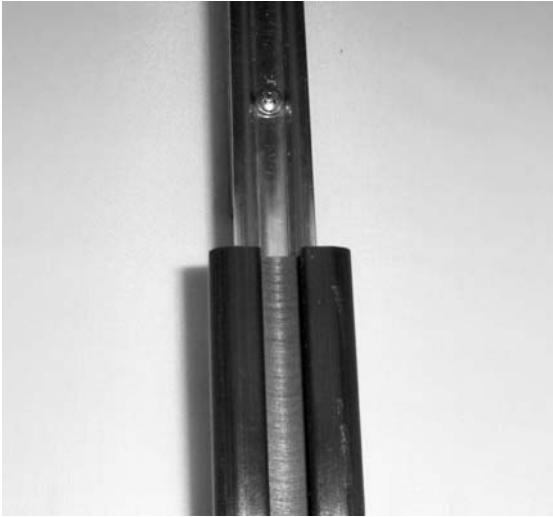
Track Installation Instructions



- 1 Tides track is shipped to you in a roll. The outer end of the track is “the top” of the track (the end you insert into the mast gate).



- 2 Cut the first two or three “outermost” tie wraps. This will keep the rest of the roll manageable.



- 3 Begin to slide the Tides Track over your existing track.

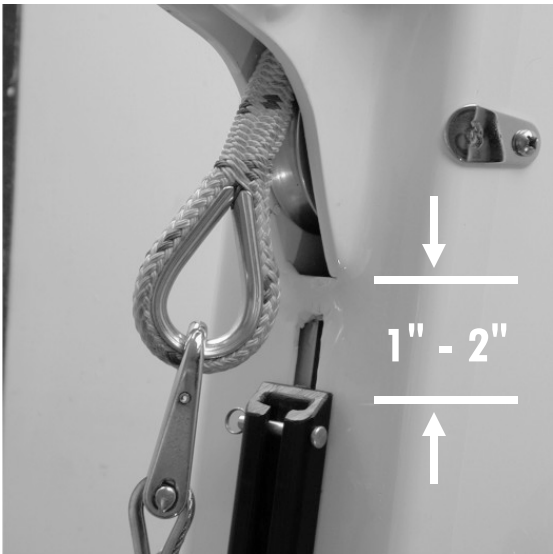


- 4 Press the top of the track against the mast with one hand and push the Tides Track up the existing track with the other, using short strokes.

Note: The track will go up more smoothly if you keep both the new track and the existing track aligned. Try not to bend the Tides Track from side to side.

Lubricants: In most cases, the Tides Track will slide smoothly into the mast gate and up the mast. If you think a lubricant is necessary, just use water or water combined with a very small amount of liquid detergent.

DO NOT use such lubricants as **WD-40** as they may leave residue on the track / mast which may collect dirt, dust or other debris.



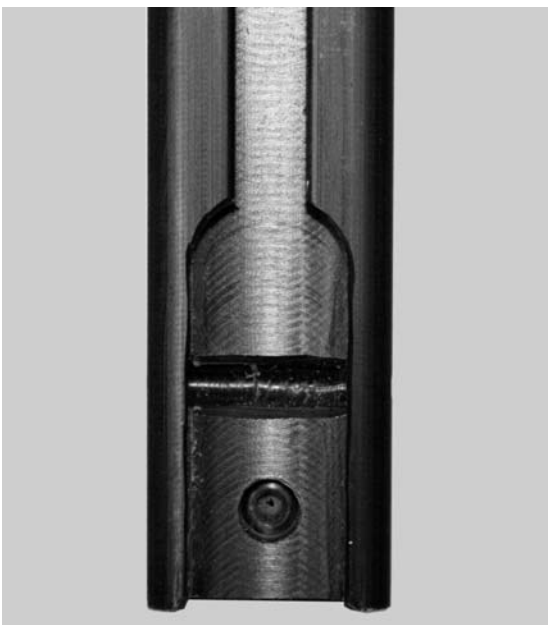
- 5 When the track reaches the end of the luff groove at the mast head, pull the track down 1"-2". Make certain the track is clear of any masthead fittings.

If the Tides Track is too long, we recommend that you:

- A) Measure and mark the base of the track to identify how much you need to remove while the track is still on the spar.
- B) Remove the Tides Track from your spar.
- C) Transfer the measurement from the bottom of the track to the top of the track.
- D) Using a jig saw or circular saw, remove the measured amount of extra track from the top of the track.
- E) Using the stainless steel base plate (included with your Tides Track hardware) as a guide, drill a 1/4" hole from one side of the top of the track to the other, about 1" from the end of the top of the track. Install the original clevis pin and ring. (See Photo E).
- F) Install the track as before.

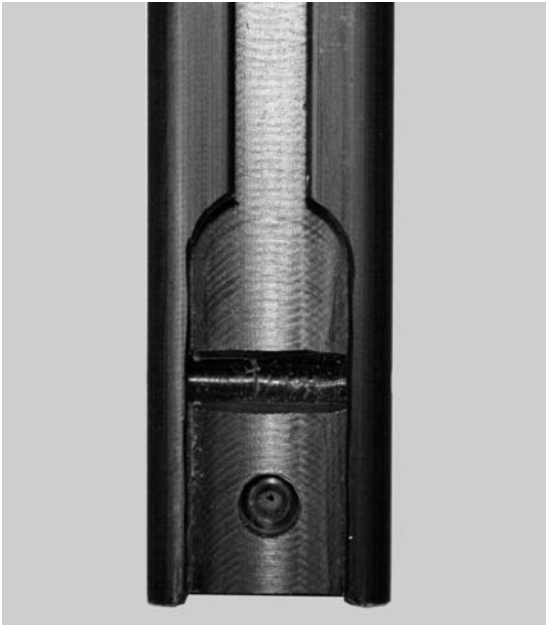


E.



- 6 The bottom of your Tides Track for existing External Track has been drilled to accept a #10 self-tapping pan head screw. This screw is taped to the bottom of the Tides Track. Ensure that the track is where you want it and make any up or down adjustments NOW.

Pre-drill your mast using the hole in the track as a guide. Install the self-tapping screw. Do not over tighten as you may pull the edges of the track toward each other. The slides could jam in this area.



- 7 Once the slides have been attached to the mainsail, you can insert them into the Tides Track.

Remove the stainless steel cover plate from the base of the track.

Tides machines a mast gate into the bottom of each track.

Starting with the headboard slide, insert each slide into this mast gate. As the slides go into the track, make sure that the “head” of each small clevis pin in the slide faces the mast head . . . the end containing the clevis ring should face the boom. If the clevis rings deteriorate over time, the pin should remain in the slide and the system should function normally until you have time to replace the missing/worn clevis rings.

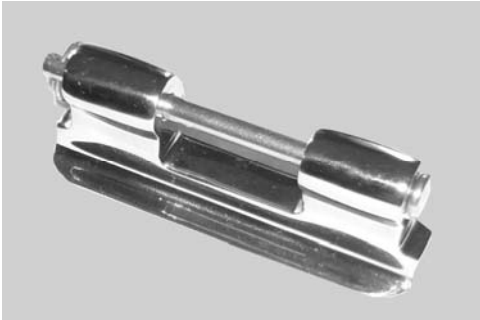


- 8 Once the slides have been attached to the mainsail, insert them into the Tides Track. When all sides are in position, place the stainless end-cap over the bottom of the Tides Track and secure using the pin provided.

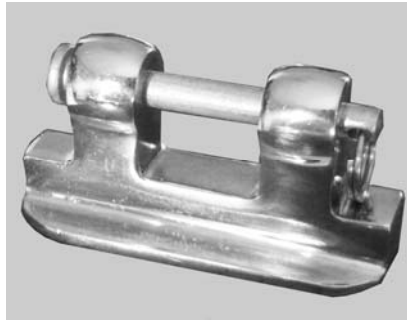
Attaching Tides Hardware to the Mainsail

Slides

Tides recommends that you use the services of a local loft to attach the slides and batten receptacles to your mainsail. Should you decide to perform this task yourself, the following information may prove helpful.



Headboard slide - 3"



Reef slide - 2"



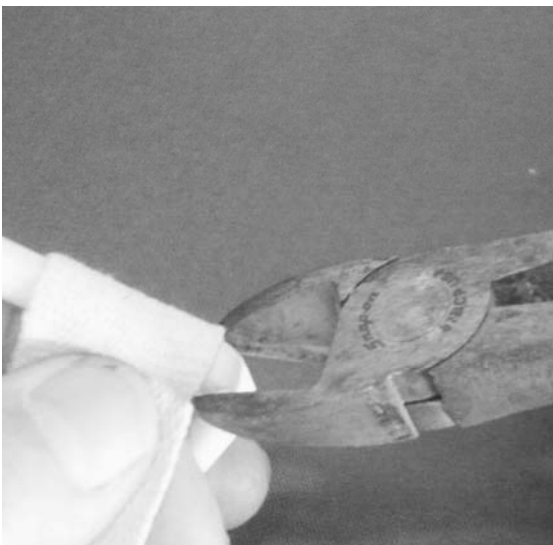
Luff slide - 1 1/4"



SH-200A Batten Receptacle w/401 slide and universal

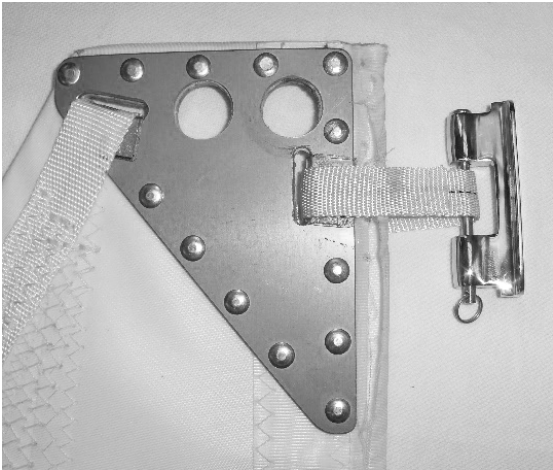


SH-200B Batten Receptacle w/401 slide and universal



- 1 If your current main has plastic or metal luff sides, cut them away from the main using a shear, Dremel tool or small saw.

Be careful not to damage the webbing around each slide.



- 2 **Begin with the headboard slide. Press the webbing between the posts of the headboard slide.**

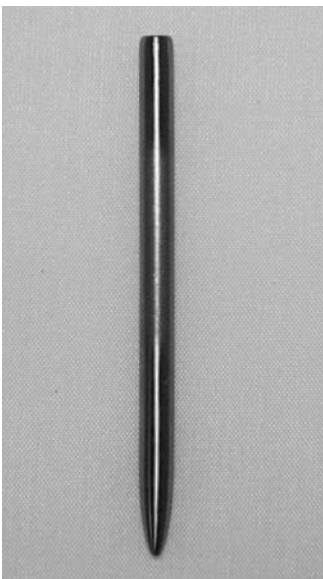
Insert the clevis pin through the top post... through the webbing... through the bottom post.

Insert the clevis ring through the base of the clevis pin. The head of the clevis pin should be at the “masthead” end of the assembly and the clevis ring at the “deck” end.



- 3 **Pressing the webbing between the posts of the luff slide and installing the clevis pin can be a challenge.**

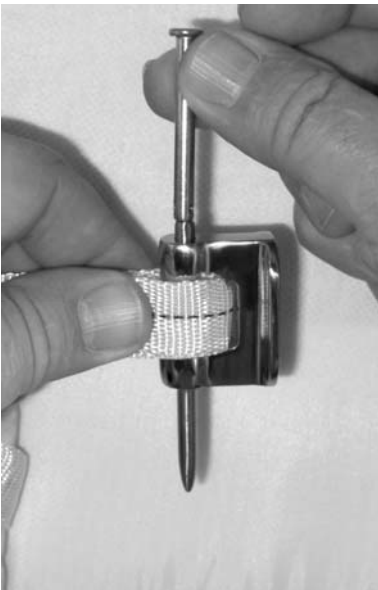
The opening in the webbing through which the clevis pin passes can constrict when the webbing is pressed between the posts of the slide.



- 4 **Tides supplies a small aluminum “installation tool” with each sail track hardware kit.**



- 5 Press the narrow end of the tool through the upper post and into the webbing. The pointed end of this tool should work its way through the webbing, opening the hole that was once there.



- 6 Once the tool is through the webbing and the bottom post, simply press the clevis pin against the back of the tool and "chase" the tool through the posts and webbing with the clevis pin.



- 7 Continue with the balance of the slides.

Batten Receptacles

In most cases, Tides Marine has designed a slide option that will accept the batten receptacles you currently have in place on your mainsail. If you will be replacing your current batten receptacles, the following suggestions may be helpful:



Side A - Exterior



Side B - Exterior

The Tides receptacle is a two-piece unit. Side A has Tides Marine printed on it and has a rounded center section. Side B is flat with ridges on the outside.

To make installation easier, remove the sail slide with universal joint from Side A of the receptacle and set it aside until you have finished attaching the receptacle to the sail.



- 1 Lay the sail out - batten side up. Remove the existing batten receptacle and position Side A of the Tides receptacle in its place (abutting the luff rope).



- 2 Using the receptacle as a template, mark the sail through each of the receptacle's "installation holes".



- 3 Using a punch, drill or other sharp object, create a hole in the sail fabric at each of these points.

Leach-Adjustable Batten Pockets



- 1 If you have “leach-adjustable” batten pockets, remove the tension on the batten before attaching the Tides receptacles. Then, cover the luff end of the batten with Side A of the Tides receptacle. The batten should fit neatly within the cavity of this Side A.

Position Side B on the other side of the sail, “smooth surface” against the sail.



- 2 Pass the stainless steel screws through Side A... then the sail... into Side B. Snug.

Plain Leach Batten Pockets



- 3 If the leach batten pocket is not adjustable, you will have to tension the batten within the cavity of Side A before you install the stainless assembly screws through the mainsail and into Side B. Patience is required.
- 4 Once the batten receptacles have been attached to the sail, insert a 10mm stud/universal joint/slide assembly into the threaded hole in Side A of each Tides receptacle. **DO NOT TIGHTEN COMPLETELY. THIS ALLOWS THE RECEPTACLE TO ROTATE FREELY WHEN FLAKING THE SAIL ONTO THE BOOM.**

With the batten receptacles and slides completed and the rest of the slides attached, you are now ready to install your mainsail onto your new Tides Track. Please refer to Page 6, Step #7 . If you have adjustable battens, re-tension them as you raise the sail.

Finishing Touches

Once the Tides Track system has been installed, the following checklist is offered for those of us who are members of the “belt and suspenders” crowd:

When weather conditions allow, raise the main while the yacht is still at the slip/mooring. Tension the halyard as you usually do and, using binoculars, inspect the headboard position on the sail track.

Is it clear of masthead hardware and rigging?

Is the headboard slide at least 2-3 inches short of the quick pin at the top of the Tides Track?

Release the halyard and flake the main. Check the stack height. Can you still reach the halyard at the headboard?

Does the yacht’s sail cover still fit neatly around the main?

Congratulations! A job well done. If you should have any questions relating to your particular installation, simply note the serial number on the stainless end-cap at the base of the Tides Track and contact Tides Marine at (800) 420-0949.

Customer Comments:

Tides Marine would like to hear from you. Your comments will be helpful as we work to improve our installation brochures.

Please take a moment to complete this questionnaire and fax it back to Tides Marine when you can. If you prefer, you can go to www.tidesmarine.com and complete the form electronically.

When your completed questionnaire is received, Tides Marine will send you your choice of two free replacement slides.

1) Were you able to follow the steps easily and in sequence?

Yes

No

If no, please let us know how we can improve the current format/information.

2) Did you discover your own "shortcuts" along the way during your Tides Track installation? If so, please share them with us:

3) Did the accompanying photos help you with your installation? _____

4) How long did it take you to install your Tides Track System? _____

5) Would you recommend the Tides Track System to other vessel owners? _____

Please fax your comments to:

TIDES MARINE INC.

(954) 420-5234

Or use the online comment card at:

www.tidesmarine.com

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